

ABSTRACT

Fluorenone and a phenolic compound (e.g., a 2-C₁₋₄alkylphenol) is subjected to a condensation reaction
5 in coexistence with a thiol compound and a hydrochloric acid aqueous solution to produce a fluorene derivative [e.g., 9,9-bis(C₁₋₄alkylhydroxyphenyl)fluorene]. The proportion (weight ratio) of fluorenone relative to the thiol compound [fluorenone/the thiol compound] is about
10 1/0.01 to 1/0.5, and the proportion (weight ratio) of the thiol compound relative to hydrochloric acid (HCl) in the hydrochloric acid aqueous solution [the thiol compound/hydrochloric acid] is about 1/0.1 to 1/3. As the thiol compound, a mercaptocarboxylic acid (β -
15 mercaptopropionic acid) may be used. According to the method, a highly purified fluorene derivative excellent in transparency can be obtained inexpensively and simply without using a hydrogen chloride gas having handling difficulty.